## **Patent Claims**

- Process for the preparation of organic salts containing bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anions comprising at least the reaction of a tris(perfluoroalkyl)phosphine oxide with an alcohol and an organic base which is more strongly
  basic than the alcohol.
- Process for the preparation of organic salts containing bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anions according to Claim 1,
  characterised in that the organic base employed is a compound of
  the general formula (1)

$$R_3X$$
 (1)

or of the general formula (2)

 $R_2Y$  (2)

in which

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 $\begin{array}{c|c} & & \\ & & \\ X \text{ denotes} \end{array}$ 

Y denotes -O-, -S-, -Se-, -C(=O)-, -C(=S)- or -C(=Se)-,

R denotes -H for Y ≠O and where, in the case of the formula (2), all R cannot simultaneously be H,

straight-chain or branched alkyl having 1-20 C atoms,

straight-chain or branched alkenyl having 2-20 C atoms and one or more double bonds,

straight-chain or branched alkynyl having 2-20 C atoms and one or more triple bonds or

saturated, partially or fully unsaturated cycloalkyl

having 3-7 C atoms, in particular phenyl, which may be substituted by alkyl groups having 1-6 C atoms,

where the substituents R are in each case identical or different,

where the substituents R may be bonded to one another in pairs by a single or double bond,

where one or more, but not all, the substituents R may be partially or fully substituted by halogens, in particular -F and/or -Cl, or partially by -CN or -NO<sub>2</sub>,

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and where one or two non-adjacent carbon atoms of the substituent R may be replaced by atoms and/or atom groups selected from the group -O-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)NH-, -C(O)NR'-, -S-, -S(O)-, -S(O)NH-, -S(O)NR'-, -S(O)O-, -S(O)

- 3. Process according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the organic base employed is a compound selected from the group (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>N, (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NH, (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P, (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>O)<sub>3</sub>P, (C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>)<sub>3</sub>P, CH<sub>3</sub>-S-CH<sub>3</sub>, (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>N-C(O)-N(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>-Se-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, guanidine, pyridine, imidazole, N-methylimidazole, benzoxazole, benzothiazole,
   pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, aniline, N N-dimethylaniline, benzylamine
- pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, aniline, N,N-dimethylaniline, benzylamine,N-ethylbenzylamine or diphenyl sulfide.
  - 4. Process for the preparation of organic salts containing bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anions according to one or more of Claims 1 to 3,
    characterised in that the alcohol employed is an aliphatic alcohol.

- 5. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the alcohol employed is a compound selected from the group methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, butanol, hexanol and benzyl alcohol.

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- Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 4,
   characterised in that the alcohol employed is a fluorinated aliphatic alcohol.
- 7. Process according to one or more of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the alcohol employed is an unsaturated alcohol.
- 8. Process for the preparation of organic salts containing bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anions according to one or more of Claims 1 to 7,
  characterised in that the tris(perfluoroalkyl)phosphine oxide employed is a tris(perfluoroalkyl)phosphine oxide in which the three perfluoroalkyl groups are identical or different.
- 9. Process for the preparation of organic salts containing bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anions according to one or more of Claims 1 to 8,
  characterised in that the tris(perfluoroalkyl)phosphine oxide
  employed is a tris(perfluoroalkyl)phosphine oxide in which the perfluoroalkyl
  groups contain 1 to 12 C atoms and are straight-chain or branched.

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10. Process according to Claim 8 or 9, characterised in that the tris(perfluoroalkyl)phosphine oxide employed is a compound selected from the group  $(CF_3)_3P(O)$ ,  $(C_2F_5)_3P(O)$ ,  $(C_3F_7)_3P(O)$  or  $(C_4F_9)_3P(O)$ .

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11. Process for the preparation of organic salts containing bis(perfluoroalkyl)-phosphinate anions according to one or more of Claims 1 to 10,

characterised in that the reaction is carried out at a temperature of -20°C to 200°C.

- 12. Use of the organic salt containing a bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anion
   prepared according to one or more of Claims 1 to 11 as ionic liquid.
  - 13. Use of the organic salt containing a bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anion prepared according to one or more of Claims 1 to 11 as phase-transfer catalyst or as surfactant.

14. Use of the organic salt containing a bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anion prepared according to one or more of Claims 1 to 11 as conductive salt in

electrochemical cells.

15. Use of the organic salt containing a bis(perfluoroalkyl)phosphinate anion prepared according to one or more of Claims 1 to 11 as plasticiser.

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